Filed for intro on 02/03/2005 HOUSE BILL 697 By Maddox

SENATE BILL 664 By Fowler

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, relative to limiting damages for actions arising in tort for facilities contracting with the state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 2, Part 4, is amended by adding the following new section:

§33-2-421.

Facilities that are licensed entities and that are exempt from federal income taxation under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code shall only be liable for damages up to the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per claimant and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence for actions arising in tort during the time that the facilities are contracting with the division of mental retardation services or the TennCare bureau or their successors to provide residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities or mental retardation, with respect to claims by or on behalf of such individuals. This limitation of liability shall not apply to willful, malicious, or criminal acts or omissions.

SECTION 2. This act shall not be applicable to claims that are within the jurisdiction of the Tennessee claims commission, or to persons or entities immune from liability under Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 8, Part 3.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.